

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W

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R 211707Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4992

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

RUTAR

/AMEMBASSY LAGOS 2667

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0223

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CM

SUBJ: CAMEROON ON EVE OF UNC PARTY CONGRESS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SUMMARY OF AIRGRAM (A-7) WHICH EMBASSY
POUCHING TODAY TO DEPARTMENT, INFO OTHER INFO ADDRESSEES THIS
TELEGRAM:

BEGIN QUOTE: CAMEROON'S ONLY POLITICAL PARTY, THE CAMEROON NAT-
IONAL UNION (UNC), WILL HOLD ITS SECOND ORDINARY NATIONAL
CONGRESS FEBRUARY 10-15 IN DOUALA. AT THIS MEETING IT WILL
ELECT A NEW NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU TO UPDATE THE ONE NAMED
BY THE FIRST UNC CONGRESS IN 1969. SOME OF THE MORE RECENTLY
RISING STARS WILL LIKELY BE INCLUDED AND SOME WHO HAVE FALLEN
BY THE POLITICAL WAYSIDE WILL BE DROPPED; BUT A CORE OF OLD
MEMBERS WILL NO DOUBT REMAIN. THE POLITICAL BUREAU WILL THUS
CONTINUE TO REFLECT THE PARTY'S 1966 ORIGINS AS AN AMALGAMA-
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TION OF ALL LEGAL FORMER PARTIES AND, MOST ESPECIALLY, THEIR

LEADERS. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT AHIDJO RULES UNCHALLENGED AND DOMINATES BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTY (OF WHICH HE IS NATIONAL PRESIDENT), THE COMPOSITION OF THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP GIVES IT THE MEASURE OF LEGITMACY WHICH PERMITS IT TO BE PRESENTED AS A REPRESENTATIVE EMBODIEMENT OF CAMEROONIAN UNITY. THE UNC IS VERY MUCH AHIDJO'S TOOL, TO USE OR NOT USE AS HE WISHES, AND ONLY ONE OF HIS SEVERAL TOOLS. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS DURING THE PAST YEAR THAT THE PARTY'S IMPORTANCE IS SLATED TO GROW.

ONE OF THE FIRST FUNCTIONS OF THE NEW POLITICAL BUREAU WILL BE TO NOMINATE THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR CAMEROON'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN MARCH OR APRIL 1975. DESPITE INEVITABLE UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS, THERE IS NOT INDICATION THAT AHIDJO HAS ANY INTENTION OF NOT BEING THAT CANDIDATE. SOME RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED THAT HE MAY BE PROPOSED AS PRESIDENT FOR LIFE. (WE THINK HE WOULD DECLINE.) OTHER RUMORS HAVE IT THAT A PRIME MINISTERSHIP MAY BE INSERTED INTO THE CAMEROONIAN GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. IF THE LATTER BE TRUE, AHIDJO'S LIKELY DESIGNEES WOULD BE PRESENT MINISTER OF STATE AND SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE PRESIDENCY PAUL BIYA, WHO COULD BE EXPECTED SMOOTHLY TO CONTINUE SERVING AHIDJO, CAMEROON'S UNDISPUTED PARAMOUNT CHIEF. THIS AIRGRAM MENTIONS THE SEVERAL OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE IN TODAY'S REGIME AND MIGHT CARRY WEIGHT IN AN EVENTUAL SUCCESSION. BUT THE IDEA OF SUCH A SUCCESSION IS HIGHLY ETHEREAL, SINCE THERE IS NOTHING TO SUGGEST THE LIKELIHOOD OF AHIDJO LEAVING THE SCENE, VOLUNTARILY OR INVOLUNTARILY, IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. END QUOTE.

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TAGS: PINT, CM, UNC
To: STATE
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